

Bert Mason
55 Powers Rd
Manchester Tn
37355

RECEIVED
2005 JAN 24 AM 11:51
T.R.A. DOCKET ROOM

Dear Sen :

Please take to heart the enclosed letter. The people who are spoken of there-in are some of those who I represent. They are the least likely to have a proper voice. But mine is a loud one. I pray that you will be on their side and not on the side of big money. In too many ways government is losing its compassion. Respect is earned thru compassion. So let us not add to that list in this way. Take note to the date on their letter (M. L. K.'s Birthday) and remember what his compassion did for our nation, and you too will sleep better at night. Thank you for your time and support in this matter.

Sincerely yours

Bert

Mr. Riley Darnell
Secretary of State
Tennessee State Capitol
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

January 15, 2005

RE: 2004 Docket #'s, 04-00166 and 04-00211

Dear Sir:

The Tennessee Regulatory Authority Docket 04-00166 and 04-00211, if approved could allow higher rates for calls from inmates at Tennessee jails and prisons. I am urging you to support the children and families of prisoners and vote against any increases in costs and any possible decreases in the time length of calls from a state or local penal institution.

Families of Tennessee prisoners are the forgotten victims of crime. Innocent of any wrong doing, they too often suffer in silence. It is therefore very important that elected and appointed government officials protect our interests. Our families are primarily responsible for telephone and many other expenditures of our incarcerated loved ones. The proposed changes would result in drastic telephone rate increases that we cannot afford. We also cannot afford to stop improving our family relationships through regular 30 minute telephone calls. Healthy family bonds during imprisonment help to reduce repeated incarcerations and ultimately make our communities safer for all Tennessee families. To shorten the length of the calls would be devastating to family bonds. Affordable local and long distance calls are especially critical for families who are not physically or financially able to visit prisons that are often in remote locations where public transportation is not available and over night accommodations and meals would drive up the costs. I am also concerned that the current telephone provider, Global Tel-Link lacks accountability to its customers. We insist that improved customer service and better billing services are required of all telephone service providers to prisons and jails in Tennessee.

As a concerned citizen, I will be watching these issues very closely. I earnestly hope that you will support families of Tennessee's prisoners and not the interests of big business.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script. The first part of the signature is "Beth" and the second part is "Mason". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

Tennessee Regulatory Authority
450 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243

RECEIVED

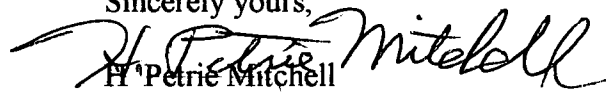
2005 JAN 24 AM 9:04

January 17, 2005
T.R.A. DOCKET ROOM

Dear Sir or Madam

Pursuant to my request for the next available date on which I might speak regarding (docket #04-00211 or #04-00166) regarding incarcerated people in Tennessee Prisons, I believe consideration should be given to lower per minute telephone rates for these inmates even if it causes such service to be subsidized by TN Dept of Corrections. Many of us who render voluntary mentoring services to such people are convinced telephone talks between prisoners and their family or friends are vital to the morale and well being of all. Raising the cost of such calls would be detrimental to the rehabilitation of these people.

Sincerely yours,



H. Petrie Mitchell

Weekly volunteer

Men of Valor Ministry